



Tupelo Times

APRIL & MAY 2010 VOL. 6, NO. 2

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**

GETTING OUTSIDE

Today I saw a framed picture created by one of my supervisor's children. I looked closely at the drawing and realized it was of a tent with a wide open flap. The flap has writing on it. This picture has been sitting in his office for some time now, but I just noticed the message incorporated in the image. The message reads, "Get Outside!" My supervisor keeps this framed drawing in his office as a constant reminder – sometimes we can get too hung up on what we are doing or what we think we have to do. Too often we don't spend enough time acting on those things that are most important and dear to us - like getting outside.

This picture is done in a style called pointillism. Pointillism is broken, fragmented dots coming together to create an image, much like how we see things on a television screen. When viewed up close, we see the images are made up of one dot placed next to another dot. The drawing of the tent suggests its creator may have felt fragmented, too. Was the child wanting to go outside but could not unless the door was wide open? The flap being open suggests an invitation to escape into the outdoors. There are no dots representing the opening, only an open, white space. These days many see the world as a fragmented space. Many of us don't even know our neighbors, yet we are all inherently connected and not really fragmented. By stepping away and viewing your space from a distance, you will begin to realize this is true. Step back and see how your space runs into your neighbors' space and theirs into their neighbors' and so on, and you will see how we are connected. Eventually, you will end up in space, viewing a big, blue ball – then you are really outside! Most of us will never get out into space but we can begin to connect the dots by stepping out our front door and getting outside.

It is winter as I write this editorial. More than a few inches of snow have been forecasted for our area and most of

the chatter I hear is of people planning on staying inside. Some say they will hibernate, curling up by the fireplace with a good book. When this article goes to print, it will be spring and the itchiness to get outside will be an overwhelming desire for many people. It really doesn't matter the reason for getting out. First unlock your door, open it and breathe the air. This may be enough to motivate you into venturing further out. Touch the new grass. Let the fresh scent of spring flowers fill your senses. If you pay attention, you can hear birds chirping songs of the heart, sweet songs signaling courtship. Take a walk, maybe even a hike. Folks are now making future plans to go camping or taking a float trip down one of Missouri's beautiful, Ozark streams. Visiting conservation areas and state parks are priorities for many, so what's keeping you? It's time, time to get outside!

By Scott K. Kelley,
Naturalist



Rachel Juhlin

Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 1

7am-4pm

Bird banding 7am

Live bird programs 11 & 1

- Games
- Crafts
- Activities
- Bird walks
- Birding Presentations



The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is now closed on Sundays. The nature center building will remain open Tuesday-Saturday 8-5, with the grounds and trails open seven days a week. Closure on Sunday is an effort by the Missouri Department of Conservation to minimize costs and to operate within the department's financial means.

2000 Hours and Counting

Young children (and their parents) have learned from her in elementary programs. She's cared for the Purple martins. You've interacted with her in the Exhibit Gallery. She's introduced hundreds to the two-headed snake and helped dismiss the fear of underappreciated reptiles. She's copied, labeled, sorted, glued, picked apart, cut out, crafted, looked up, dreamed up, dressed up and swept up – all for the sake of making programs and events more enjoyable for all. Her excitement over the smallest aspect of nature rejuvenates the sense of wonder in those around her. Joan Anderson has volunteered her time – over 2000 hours – at the nature center since it opened.

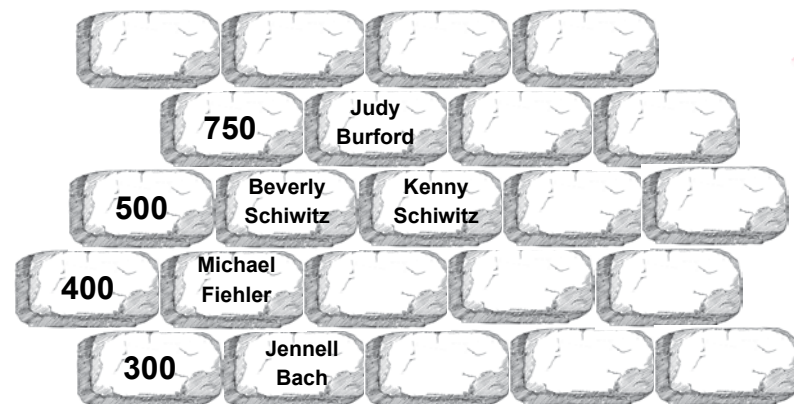
As we celebrate the nature center's fifth anniversary, we celebrate all that our volunteers have done over the years through their 25,000+ hours of service. People like Joan help bring the nature center to life and make experiences more enjoyable and educational for all.



Joan shares the wonders of snakes with exhibit visitors

Volunteer Milestones

Hours of Service



Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and is closed Sundays and Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape

Paving the Way

Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Nature Center walkway:
Nature Center Staff & Volunteers in memory of
Lawrence A. Juhlin
Cape Care for Women in memory of Melvin Beal

Thank You

Donations of
Time, Material, and Service

Natural objects: **Kathy Simmons,**
Bill & Linda Boren

Discover Nature Schools Program

Are you looking for an exciting way to get students involved with the natural world? Check out the Discover Nature Schools Program. We currently have the Nature Unleashed Unit for 3rd-4th grade and the Aquatic Ecosystems Unit for middle schools. These are premium quality education products, created by ecology professionals. Both have been field tested in Missouri schools and feature information pertaining to Missouri's native ecosystems. These products satisfy Grade Level Expectations and can help prepare your students for the MAP test.

There are many positive aspects to becoming a Discover Nature School: full color student guides that include vocabulary and questions for each chapter; a comprehensive teacher's guide that includes hands-on activities, lesson plans, background information, assessments, and more; grants to cover a field experience and required equipment. For more information about the Discover Nature Schools Program call Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218.



Educators' Niche

Newsletter in the Mail or Online...

To receive your newsletter **electronically**, simply go to the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center's web page at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape/> and sign up for the *Tupelo Times* online. You will receive a follow-up email reminder that you will need to respond to in order to activate your enrollment. A bi-monthly email reminder will be sent with a link to the *Tupelo Times* online. The newsletter will look exactly the same as the mailed version but will be in .pdf format. You will be given the opportunity to unsubscribe with each email you receive. This electronic email list will not be shared with other parties.



**Celebrate
Earth Day
April 22!**

The Nature Shop

APRIL

Missouri Wildflowers

This revised, sixth edition has a new look. Dennison's classic now has larger pages, type and pictures for improved readability. Colored tabs have been added for easier location of flower color groups.

The taxonomy has been updated in accordance with the most current naming conventions.



Discounted price:
\$9.60 plus tax

20% Off

*Special monthly discounts ...
(Conservation Heritage Card
discounts do not apply)*

*The Nature Shop
features a variety of nature-
related books, videos/DVDs,
and resources to increase
awareness and knowledge
of conservation and the
outdoors.*

MAY

Tried and True Missouri Native Plants for Your Yard

Gardeners will find this book indispensable. Its 60-plus pages catalog 111 wildflowers, ferns, grasses, sedges, vines, shrubs and trees for every imaginable landscape use, with notes on growing needs of each. Gorgeous color photos make it suitable for coffee-table display.



Discounted price:
\$4.80 plus tax

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center's 5th Anniversary Celebration

we discovered...



fishing



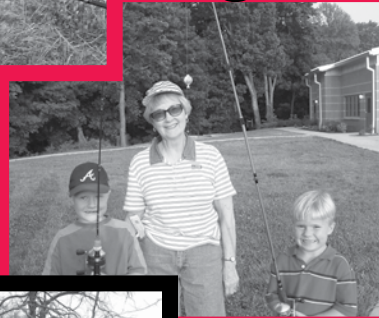
cooking



birds



the past



caving



hunting



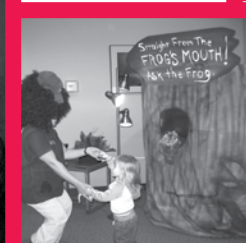
nature



nature art



aquatics



we had fun!

"Let Nature be your teacher."—William Wordsworth



April Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **April 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

3 Birding at General Watkins CA *Saturday, 8am-1pm*

Songbirds abound in the spring. General Watkins Conservation Area acts as a "trap" for migrating birds seeking quality habitat and is a great place to observe birds. Trip leader Chris Barrigar of the "Swamp Candle Birders of Southeast Missouri" will help you find and identify these birds and provide tips on bird identification for your future outings. **All ages. Registration required.**

Early registration begins March 16

6 Nuisance Wildlife *Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm*

When does a wild animal become a nuisance? What methods can I use to harass wild animals when they do become a nuisance? For most people, "nuisance wildlife" means an animal is destructive or menacing. Wildlife may threaten human health or safety by spreading diseases, through direct attacks or accidentally. In fact, most wild animals just mind their own business and never cause a conflict with people. **Ages 18 and up. Registration required.**

Early registration begins March 16

8 Nature Center at Night *Thursday, 5-8pm*

Make plans to join us for our first "Nature Center at Night" event and experience some fishy fun. Kids, you (ages 15 and under) can try your luck at the Kids Only fishing pond. We'll even hook you up with the poles and bait you need to catch your lunger. Other activities and information on fishing in Missouri will be available for everyone. The nature center will be open late for visiting all of the fun exhibits. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

snappers

Talkin' Trees *Saturday, April 10 10:30am-Noon*

From dry oak and hickory forest to the wet cypress swamps and everything in between, our region's forests are as diverse as you and I. Experience some of these differences as Snappers explore White Oak Trace. Discover the techniques foresters use to age and better understand our Missouri woods while getting a hands on chance to learn the woods. **Snappers** program are designed for kids ages 7-11. **Registration required.**



Temporary Display

Visit the nature center lobby in April to view "From Winter to Summer", a collection of photographs capturing what Southeast Missouri offers in Winter, Spring, and Summer by Chad Doolen.

Mudpuppies

Friendly Frogs & Terrific Toads *Saturday, April 10 9am, 11am, or 1pm Tuesday, April 13 9am or 11am*

Did you hear something? It's the wonderful springtime sound of frogs and toads! Join us to discover fun facts about these amazing amphibians that live all around us. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. **Registration required.**

RACERS

Bashin' Trash *Saturday, April 17 8am-Noon*

The Racers will be the major force for the trash war at Cape LaCroix Creek this month. See the description for "Bashin' Trash" for details. Don't forget to bring your friends and family. Refreshments and t-shirts provided! **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12 - 17. **Registration required.**

17 Bashin' Trash *Saturday, 8am-Noon*

The nature center is partnering with the Cape Girardeau Parks & Recreation Department to clean up Cape LaCroix Creek during their annual Park Day. Gather your friends, family or organization to help bring the beauty back to the creek between Route W and Shawnee Sports Complex. We'll meet at the 4-H Shelter in Arena Park at 8:00 am to distribute trash bags and receive section assignments. Refreshments and t-shirts will be provided. Wear your water shoes, work gloves and appropriate clothing to "bash trash". **All ages. Registration required.**

Tadpoles

Polliwog Adventures *Saturday, April 17 9am or 11am*

Hear the lively song of the frogs in yonder pond! Get to see some tadpoles and frogs up close and take an adventurous stroll through the woods to look for amphibian friends. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. **Registration required.**

Visit the nature center during the 20th Annual Mississippi River Valley Scenic Drive, April 24-25. Get out and stretch your legs, take a hike or look at our native plant gardens. Passports will only be stamped on Saturday due to our hours of operation.



17 Conservation Trails Millstream Gardens *Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm*

The Millstream Gardens trail hike offers a walk along the rushing river where kayakers brave the rapids in early spring. Spring wildflowers and busy songbirds may be sighted as the trail takes us through forest land and near shut-ins, to connect us with the Turkey Creek trail leading to the Silver Mines campground. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

20 Birding Walk *Tuesday, 6:30-7:30am*

Get up early with the birds! Songbirds are returning from the tropics and showing up here. We'll walk the nature center's White Oak Trace trail in search of warblers and other songbirds. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Open to beginners and experts alike. **All ages. No registration required.**

22 Nature Art Wildflower Note Card *Thursday, 6:30-8pm*

April showers bring wild flowers... Missouri is home to some of the most beautiful spring wildflowers you can imagine. Come learn how to craft a wildflower note card and when done you can take a little piece of spring home. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

24 Stream Stewardship *Saturday, 8-11am*

Assist Jackson City Engineer Kent Peetz with a stream bank revetment project on Hubble Creek. Get ready to get wet and use your muscles to place recycled Christmas trees in the banks to deter erosion. Refreshments and a t-shirt will be provided. Meet at Jackson City Park Shelter #1. **Ages 18 and up. Registration required.**

24 Discovery Station Native Plants *Saturday, 1-4pm*

Native Plants create beauty and interest as well as provide food and cover for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Learn more about how you can use native plants at your home and plant some seed of your own to get your native garden growing. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

27 Conservation Café with guest Georgia Degitz *Tuesday, 6:30-8pm*

Please join us for a café discussion with Georgia Degitz. Ms. Degitz enjoys going outdoors "to see what the wildlife is up to," and believes that being outdoors revitalizes her soul. She is a professional wildlife photographer from Hannibal, Missouri, who has enjoyed fine-tuning her photography skills for many years. Coffee and snacks provided. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**



May Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **May 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

1 Migratory Bird Day *Saturday, 7am-4pm*

Millions of birds are migrating north this weekend and you get to "join" them in their journey. International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated around the globe and we are joining in with activities, games, birding walks, door prizes and tips to help these birds. Live bird banding demonstrations begin at 7:00am. Free Again Rehabilitation Center will provide a live bird program on raptors at 11:00am and at 1:00pm. Discover more about birds and the sport of birding. The event is hosted in part by the Swamp Candle Birders of Southeast Missouri. **All ages. Youth groups welcome. No registration required.**

RACERS

Take a Hike *Saturday, May 8 8:30am-12:30pm*

Take a 3.5 mile hike on the Peewah Trail at Trail of Tears State Park. We'll traverse through Indian Creek Wild Area and experience scenic views of the Mississippi River, as well as areas managed with prescribed burns. Trail is of easy-moderate difficulty. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12 - 17. **Registration required.**

Mudpuppies

Butterfly Magic *Saturday, May 8 9am, 11am, or 1pm Tuesday, May 18 9am or 11am*

Butterflies grow up in a magical way. We'll follow the butterfly's life cycle from its humble beginnings to glorious finish. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. **Registration required.**

11 Birding Walk *Tuesday, 6:30-7:30am*

Get up early with the birds! Songbirds are returning from the tropics and showing up here. We'll walk the nature center's White Oak Trace trail in search of warblers and other songbirds. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Open to beginners and experts alike. **All ages. No registration required.**

Temporary Display

View the nature center's gallery in May to view "Nature's Marvelous Miracles," a photography exhibit by Georgia Degitz.

13 Nature Center at Night *Thursday, 5-8pm*

Make plans to join us for this "Nature Center at Night" event and develop your archery skills. You will learn tips and better techniques to become a more proficient archer. All archery equipment will be provided. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

13 Nature Art Hummingbird Feeders *Thursday, 6:30-8pm*

Warm weather brings our much anticipated summer visitors – the hummingbirds – back to Missouri. We'll fashion functional feeders that will get these tiny, winged wonders buzzing around your home and yard. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

15 Fifth Anniversary Celebration *Saturday, 10am-2pm*

Come celebrate the nature center's fifth anniversary with us! Enjoy cake and punch, meet characters from some of our programs and events, participate in a scavenger hunt with nature center trivia, see a puppet show and much more. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

Tadpoles

Flutter and Fly *Saturday, May 22 9am or 11am*

Flutter, flutter, flutter! What's that burst of color? It's a butterfly! Join us for some fun as we learn new things about these amazing insects. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. **Registration required.**

snappers

Spring Cleaning *Saturday, May 22 10am-Noon*

Want to help the nature center but you just aren't sure how? Make stewardship a part of your conservation life. Prepare for a day of activities including flowerbed maintenance and trash removal while having fun with friends and family. **Snappers** program are designed for kids ages 7-11. **Registration required.**



22 Discovery Station Magnificent Missouri Mammals *Saturday, 1-4pm*

Lions and wolves and bears! Oh my! Come find out about these and other mammals that have made Missouri their home in the past and present. Explore the characteristics of these magnificent mammals while having fun. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.**

22/23 Conservation Trails Hawn State Park *Saturday, 9am-Sunday, 4:30pm*

Join us for our first overnight hiking trip to beautiful Hawn State Park! Hawn is well known for great hiking trails and well-maintained camping areas. The springtime is especially favorable for wildflower viewing, and the Whispering Pines Trail offers a softly cushioned walk among stately trees whispering in the breeze. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**



EXPLORE THE NEW **KIDS' NATURE NOOK**

...where your little ones will find puzzles, books, animal artifacts, puppets and more just for them (located at the rear of the building by the fish aquarium).

COMING IN JUNE

5 Women's Field Day *Saturday, 9am-3pm*

Hey ladies! Get ready for a day of fun and learning with other women at our Discover Nature Women: Outdoor Skills Field Day! Try your hand at archery, fly fishing, outdoor cooking, or canoeing. Learn the basics of hunting or animal/plant identification. You can decide which activities you wish to attend but whatever your choices, you're guaranteed to have a great adventure! To receive a registration form and additional information, contact the nature center at 573-290-5218. **Ages 18 and up (age 14 and up when accompanied by an adult). Registration required.**